

Serial No.: 10/801,870  
Amendment Dated: December 13, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of September 16, 2005

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). In response, the applicants have amended both the drawings and the specification such that the two are now consistent. The drawings have been amended by submission of replacement sheets enclosed herewith.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In a telephone conversation with the Examiner, the applicants provisionally elected Group I, claims 1-8 and 15 for prosecution. That election is now affirmed.

The specification and claims have been objected to because of informalities. In response, the applicants have amended the specification and claims so as to overcome these informalities.

Claims 9-14 have been withdrawn by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hotchkiss, Jr. ('766). In response, the applicant have cancelled claim 15.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japan 5-329453. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan '453. Claims 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The applicants have reviewed the cited references in detail and believe that the claims, as amended, are patentably distinctive over the cited references for the reasons to be discussed hereinbelow.

The present invention relates to an apparatus for dislodging foreign material from a cavity of an object with the apparatus comprising a tubular guide to be inserted into the cavity, a tubular sleeve rotatable mounted over the guide, a wire rotatable disposed within the guide and being secured to the sleeve such that when the sleeve is rotated about the guide, the wire is rotated within the guide.

The Japanese reference discloses a drain pipe cleaner having a flexible external pipe 2 that may be inserted into the drain pipe and an internal rope 3 that is slideable inserted into the external pipe 2. A handle 3b is attached to the internal rope 3 for axially advancing and retrieving the movement of the internal rope 3 within the flexible external pipe 2. In order to better understand the Japanese reference, the applicants have obtained an English language translation of the abstract and are enclosing a copy herewith for the benefit of the Examiner. The applicants believe that in view of this description, the Examiner will reconsider and

modify his thinking as expressed in his remarks in the above referenced Office Action.

The Examiner has said that the Japanese reference includes “a tubular sleeve to be mounted over at least the lower portion of said guide so that said sleeve can rotate about the axis of said guide...”. With this, the applicants respectively disagree. In view of the drawings and the English language abstract, the applicants believe that there is no basis whatsoever to conclude that the part 2b is rotatably mounted on the flexible external pipe 2. Further, there does not appear to be any reason for the part 2b to be rotated around the flexible external pipe 2 since the internal rope 3 is designed to be axially moved in and out of the flexible external pipe 2, and presumably the part 2b as well.

The Examiner has also said that “The extended lower end of the wires is secured to said sleeve whereby the wire and the sleeve can rotate together about the axis of a guide”. Again, this feature is clearly not shown by the drawings in the Japanese reference and, when referring to the English language abstract, such a conclusion would appear to be incorrect. Again, the cleaner of the Japanese reference is designed to have the internal rope 3 axially moved in and out of the flexible external pipe in part 2b, and there is clearly no provision, nor reason, for attaching the internal rope 3 to the part 2b so that the combination can be rotated with respect to the flexible external pipe 2.

For the above reasons, the applicants believe that the claims, as amended, are patentably distinctive over the cited references. A reconsideration of the Examiner’s rejections and a passing of the case to issue is respectfully requested.

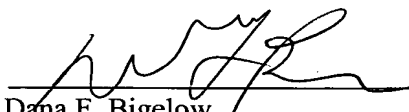
If the Examiner wishes to expedite disposition of the above-captioned patent application, he is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,

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